

*His Grace the Lord Archbishop of
Canterbury's Letter to the Reve-
rend Dr. Batteley, Archdeacon
of that Diocese, concerning the
late Act against Popery, to be
communicated to the Clergy of his
Archdeaconry.*



1.



Reverend Sir,

IT is well known to you, and indeed to the whole Nation, how the late Act for the further preventing the growth of Popery, was extorted by the provoking behaviour of divers of the Members of that Church. Of this, frequent Complaints were made from all parts of the Kingdom; representing the openness of their Assemblies, their dai-

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ly endeavours to pervert His Majesty's Natural-born Subjects, and other publick Affronts to the Laws of this Realm. The *Parliament*, notwithstanding, in the method of restraining them, hath us'd such tenderness both to their Persons and Estates, as was consistent with the preservation of our Religion, our Laws, and the publick Peace. Particularly, the Favour that is offer'd to all who shall embrace the *Protestant Faith*, with the allowance of reasonable Time and Opportunities in order thereunto, are sufficient Arguments that His Majesty and the Two Houses did principally intend, not their *Punishment*, but their *Conversion*. In pursuance of which good design, it will become the Clergy, both in Conscience and Humanity, to endeavour *their* exemption from the Penalties of the Act, by their readiness on all Occasions to convince *them* of the reasonableness of the Change. An Office the more charitable and necessary, considering how they are train'd up in a blind Obedience to their Church, and not permitted by their own Guides to search into the true grounds and reasons of their Faith.

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Wherefore, I thought it incumbent on me, especially at this juncture, to desire you to move the Clergy of your Archdeaconry carefully to observe the *LXVI Canon*, and not to be wanting in any assistance of this kind, either where they are invited to give it, or where on their part it may regularly and conveniently be offer'd: But that they be ready upon all fitting Occasions, as well to lay open the many dangerous Errors of the Church of *Rome*, as to shew the Agreeableness of the Doctrine of *Our Church* to the *Holy Scriptures*, and the purest Ages of Christianity. The successful Management hereof will require great Caution and Prudence; but (being well assur'd of your Ability) I leave it to your Consideration to suggest to the Clergy aforesaid such Directions as may seem necessary for their conduct in an affair of this nature. I would further desire you to give them notice of a Book entitl'd, *An Address to those of the Roman Communion in England*, occasion'd by the late *Act*; written at my Request, and now in the Press.

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Not doubting of your readiness to use all proper means for the promoting a Work of such Importance ; I remain,

Sir,

Lambeth,
May 8th.
1700.

Your Affectionate Brother,

Tho. Cantuar.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *Charles Bill*, and the Executrix of
Thomas Newcomb, deceas'd ; Printers to the
Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1700.